

LA FOLLETTE PLAYS LEADERS OF SENATE

Balks Hale's Plan to Rush Naval Appropriations.

COMMITTEE PLANS ARE SCORED

Backed by the Younger Republican Members, Wisconsin Senator Makes Some Sarcastic Observations, and Urges More Equitable Arrangement of Assignments—Wins Point.

It was the intention of the Senate leaders to have that body consider and pass the naval appropriation bill before adjournment yesterday, and they would have succeeded if it had not been for Hon. Robert M. La Follette, of Wisconsin.

As things turned out, Mr. La Follette interposed objection to the immediate consideration of the measure on the ground that he had not had time to examine it thoroughly, and in consequence it went over until Monday.

The plea of Acting Chairman Hale, of the Appropriations Committee, that nine or ten big appropriation bills remained to be acted on by the Senate within a period of fifteen working days before the present Congress dies, had no effect on the Wisconsin Senator.

Mr. La Follette's objection produced a debate, in which it was brought out that he did not like the way things were run in the Senate and longed for a change.

Hale is insistent. It was getting around to 4 o'clock when Mr. Hale called up the naval bill. He wanted the Senate to begin its consideration at once and get through with it in order to clear the way for other appropriation measures.

Then Mr. La Follette got up and said that it was an important bill; that it carried \$157,000,000, or something like \$150,000,000 more than was estimated by the Navy Department, and that it was too important to be given consideration until Senators had the opportunity of examining its provisions thoroughly.

He thought that as many Senators were away from town attending Lincoln Day celebrations, and as these Senators would want to speak, the bill ought to go over.

Mr. Hale admitted there was force in what Mr. La Follette had pointed out, but suggested that very little time was left to put through the remaining annual budgets before Congress died, on March 4. He mentioned nine or ten annual appropriation bills that remained to be acted on.

Mr. La Follette contended that as the Committee on Appropriations had received the naval bill from the House fifteen days ago, and had used all that time in considering and amending it, it was hardly fair to give the Senate only two or three hours for debate on the items contained.

Then Mr. La Follette made some sarcastic observations. He indicated that action on appropriation bills had been delayed because a few Senators were members of all the important committees, and were so overwhelmed with work that they could not give sufficient time to big measures so that they could be reported without any considerable delay.

This was an evident crack at the Senate leaders. Mr. Hale came back with some sarcasm of his own.

"I have no doubt," he said, "that the Senator has in mind a very profound scheme for reforming the uses and practices of this body, but he will never get any new plan which will not permit the consideration of any appropriation bill by any committee."

Perhaps Mr. La Follette interpreted the remark as showing that Mr. Hale had knowledge of his little dinner party and the object for which it was held.

The dinner party was attended by about a dozen of the more radical among the younger Republicans of the Senate, who have not yet, however, acknowledged Mr. La Follette as their leader, although they have backed him up at times in opposition to the more conservative Republican element.

Most of the "busy bees," as these younger Senators have come to be called, were at Mr. La Follette's dinner, and remained about his table until 2:30 o'clock in the morning. Among them were Senators Borah, Bourne, Brown, Burkett, Cummins, Curtis, and Dixon.

Senator Beveridge was asked to attend, but when he found what the object of the meeting was he declined the invitation.

The proposition under consideration at the dinner was that the "busy bees" insist that the Republican "steering committee," officially known as the Committee on Committees, should have its present limited membership increased so as to provide a place for a Republican Senator from every State that had a Republican Senator.

As far as known the dinner conference did not result in the formation of any definite plan of campaign.

La Follette is ironical. When Senator Hale was through talking, Mr. La Follette turned the batteries of his irony on him. He arose, he said, just to say a word in reply to the suggestion that he was considering some scheme of very great reform in the proceedings of the Senate, and that no plan could be worked out that would improve on the method of sending bills to committees.

"I am very frank to say to the Senator from Maine," remarked Mr. La Follette, with sarcasm, "that I have thought about the present assignment of committees and rearrangements in this body, that I had the temerity to consider whether there might not be some other arrangement to distribute the committee assignments more equitably. It may be a desirable improvement made on the present method of appointing committee in this body."

"I have had the hardihood not only to doubt the divine perfection of the present arrangement, but to almost believe the business of the Senate could be distributed among its ninety-two members, instead of being taken care of by less than one-third of this body."

Senator Flint, of California, had been standing on tiptoe, trying to get a chance to interrupt the colloquy. When the chance came at last he called attention to Mr. La Follette's statement that the

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naval bill ought not to be considered then because so many Senators had gone away to make speeches at Lincoln anniversary celebrations.

From what followed it seemed Mr. Flint was inclined to doubt the accuracy of Mr. La Follette's statement. "I suggest the absence of a quorum to determine how many are absent," he said. This suggestion made it necessary for the Vice President to order a call of the Senate. When the call was completed sixty-three Senators, or sixteen more than a quorum, had answered to their names. It had grown late then, and it was agreed to accept the reading of the first paragraph of the bill as the reading of the entire measure.

Mr. La Follette assented to this arrangement, the effect of which will be that nobody can delay action when the bill comes up on Monday by demanding the reading of the bulky document.

AGRICULTURE BILL PASSED. It Provides Paper-making Patents Shall be for "Whole People."

The House yesterday passed the agricultural appropriation bill, with an amendment providing that all discoveries made by the Department of Agriculture incident to tests of paper-making material shall be patented in the name of the Secretary of Agriculture "for the benefit of the whole people."

MAMMAL, MAMMAL; WHAT'S A MAMMAL?

Macon Didn't Know and No One Would Tell Him.

VALUABLE, SAYS MR. GRONNA

Protection of that Class of Animal on the Montana Bison Range Affords House of Representatives Opportunity for Laughter, and One Member Rushes for a Dictionary.

Representative Robert Bruce Macon, of Arkansas, is a Democrat, lives in Helena, is a lawyer, was elected to the Fifty-eighth Congress, and never knew he was a statesman until the second session of the Sixtieth, but he does not know what a mammal is, or at least he did not until he looked it up in Webster's Unabridged last night.

Representative Asie J. Gronna, of North Dakota, is a Republican, was born in Elkader, Iowa, and at the age of two years moved to Houston County, Minn., but he doesn't know what a mammal is, or at least he couldn't tell Representative Macon, when that all important animal came in for consideration in the House of Representatives yesterday afternoon.

Roars of Laughter. Members of the House, some of them who knew, and some of them who thought it was a fish, bird, snake, or crocodile, amphibious, insecta, places, or even creature, roared with laughter, while Representative Foster, of Vermont, who was presiding, nearly fell from the Speaker's chair.

The House, acting as a Committee of the Whole, was considering the agricultural appropriation bill, and finally came to that part relating to appropriations for the maintenance of the Montana national bison range. Mr. Macon rose to his feet, wearing a look of deep concern.

"I notice here some mammals that you want to preserve," he said to Representative Gronna, who was addressing the House. "What are they and what use will they be?"

The following colloquy then ensued: Mr. Gronna—There are not any on these reservations. The species of birds we have I have mentioned.

Mr. Macon—Are these mammals birds? Mr. Gronna—We have on those particular reservations birds that are found nowhere else in the United States.

Mr. Macon—But I want to know about the mammals.

Mr. Gronna—I am talking about birds.

Like Rats or Gophers. Mr. Macon—I have understood they are something like rats and gophers, or something of that kind.

Mr. Humphreys, of Mississippi, interrupting—Or 'possum.

Mr. Gronna—I will say that if there are any mammals there of any value we will be very much pleased to preserve them.

Mr. Macon—But what are they good for?

Mr. Gronna—I say that we have none that I know of.

Mr. Macon—(Still puzzled)—What are they good for, or what are they going to be good for if they are there?

By this time all semblance of order in the House had departed.

Mr. Gronna stuck to the job manfully. Addressing Mr. Macon, he said: "I will say to the gentleman that my reply to this, if we have any mammals of any value we desire to preserve them."

Mr. Macon said he wanted to know what mammals are good for, but Mr. Gronna couldn't tell him nor anybody else sitting there. Mr. Macon took his seat evidently at a loss as to whether mammals referred to a state of mind, a new and strange disease, or whether it might be the name of a city or creature in some remote section of the world.

PRINGLE NOW IN FAVOR.

Labor Editor May Soon Be Confirmed for Pittsburgh Post.

Unless new objections are brought forward, the Senate Finance Committee will probably take early action on the nomination of John D. Pringle to be appraiser of merchandise at the port of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Pringle, who is editor of the Labor World, and refused to follow the lead of Samuel Gompers in the late political campaign, was nominated for the Pittsburgh office by President Roosevelt.

After his nomination, complaints were brought to Washington that Pringle had talked about his preference by the President in a way offensive to the Republican political leaders of Western Pennsylvania, and the name was withdrawn from the Senate pending an investigation.

After looking into the matter, Senator Knox, of Pennsylvania, told the President that he thought Pringle's offense, such as it was, might well be overlooked. He magnanimously requested the President to return the nomination to the Senate, and that was done.

Deck Courts for Navy.

The Senate bill for administration of justice in the navy, the chief feature of which was the institution of "deck courts," has been passed by both Houses. The House disagreed at first, but the conferees got together and recommended the bill for adoption in about the original form. "Deck courts" are for trial of minor offenses of enlisted men in the navy and Marine Corps.

Faces Forgery Charge.

Richmond, Va., Feb. 12.—Thomas H. Davis, a white man, fifty years old, was arrested to-day, charged with forging the name of George M. Tarry to checks to the amount of \$65.

EMBARGO ON KNOX RAISED BY SENATE

Expedient Measure Will Be Opposed by House Leaders.

THE SENATOR MAY REFUSE

Pennsylvania Has Indicated That He Would Not Enter Cabinet If Any Cloud to His Title Developed—Watson, Champ Clark, and Williams Not in Favor of Hale Bill.

Circumstances developed yesterday make it less certain that Senator Philander C. Knox, of Pennsylvania, will become Secretary of State in President Taft's administration.

Mr. Knox has indicated to his friends he would not enter the Cabinet if there was any cloud on his title to the premiership, or if there was any decided opposition to removing his constitutional ineligibility for the position.

It has become apparent there will be opposition, and probably very decided opposition, in the House of Representatives when that body comes to consider the bill raising the existing embargo against Mr. Knox.

Senate Passed Bill. The Senate has already done its part to smooth the way for Mr. Knox's entrance into the Cabinet. A bill designed to remove the embarrassing situation was passed by the Senate late yesterday afternoon.

It was reported from the Committee on the Judiciary shortly after the Senate assembled, and just at adjournment time it was taken from the calendar by unanimous consent and put through by a viva voce vote without division.

No one objected to it, and nobody had anything to say about its merits. Less than a minute was consumed in the operation.

The situation on the House side of the Capitol is different. Representative Watson, of Indiana, the Republican whip, made a canvass of his colleagues yesterday to ascertain the prevailing sentiment toward the measure to remove Senator Knox's disability, and his conclusion was that there is a widespread opinion that the measure seeks to circumvent a constitutional decree and is objectionable for that reason.

Representative Champ Clark, of Missouri, the Democratic floor leader; Representative John Sharp Williams, of Mississippi; and Representative Swager Sherley, of Kentucky, all declared they would oppose the measure.

Mr. Williams explained that his opposition was based on the ground that the bill was admitted to be a statesman's bill, and that it was a violation of the Constitution and nullified the very purpose of the section which declares that "no Senator or Representative shall, during the time for which he is elected, be appointed to any civil office which shall have been created, or the emoluments whereof shall have been increased, during such time."

"Should this violation be permitted in the case of so eminent a statesman as Mr. Knox," said Mr. Williams, "there is no reason why the bad precedent established should not be followed in every other case that may come up."

House Not Favorable. That the bill will meet with disfavor by the House Committee on the Judiciary, was made manifest also. Six of the members of the Judiciary Committee are Democrats, and all of them have indicated an intention to fight the bill.

So has Representative Jenkins, of Wisconsin, the chairman of the committee, who is a Republican. He takes the ground that as Mr. Knox's constitutional right to serve in the Cabinet was impaired through his service in the Senate at the time when the law increasing the salary of the Secretary of State was enacted, the constitutional impediment to his appointment cannot be removed by additional legislative action.

The Judiciary Committee is composed of eighteen members, twelve of whom are Republicans. It was said that in addition to Chairman Jenkins, two Republican members of the committee were opposed to the bill, and that Mr. Knox to enter Mr. Taft's Cabinet.

With the six Democrats and three Republicans opposed to the bill the committee would be divided evenly, and thus bring about a deadlock on the proposition.

Mr. Knox will not be filled with grief if he should not feel compelled to withdraw his acceptance. He did not seek the office of Secretary of State, and his acceptance was given somewhat reluctantly. He likes the atmosphere of the Senate.

A special meeting of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary was held yesterday for the purpose of considering a bill introduced by Senator Hale Wednesday to remove the constitutional bar to Mr. Knox's appointment as Secretary of State. The bill as reported carried an amendment limiting the emoluments of the Secretary of State to \$3,000.

DEBATE ON RACE QUESTION.

Beveridge Stirs Southerners by Persistent Statement.

There was a few minutes of sharp discussion of the race question in the Senate yesterday afternoon.

Senator McLaughlin, of Mississippi, opened the way by delivering a speech directed to the point that the political activity of the negro should be discouraged and not encouraged by any section of the country. The negro, he said, was unfit for self-government.

Senator Beveridge, of Indiana, interrupted to inquire if that was the reason the South disfranchised the negro.

"So far as that is concerned," retorted Mr. McLaughlin, "I understand there are towns in Indiana where a negro is not allowed to get off a train and step on the sidewalk."

Mr. Beveridge's voice rose to a high pitch in repudiating this statement of the Senator from Mississippi. There was not a foot of Indiana soil, he declared, where a man, regardless of race, creed, or color, was not allowed to exercise freedom of action, and the right to vote as he pleased. He went on to declare that Senator Tillman had openly declared that the South would not permit the negro to vote, and he assumed that Senator Tillman, on this question, was a spokesman for the South.

With some severity, Senator Bacon, of Georgia, told the Senator from Indiana, that he assumed a gross deal in saying that Senator Tillman spoke for anybody but himself and his State on this question.

Senator Money admonished Mr. Beveridge that he should not make such statements for anybody. The participants were silenced when Mr. Hale demanded the regular order of business.

New Bridge Urged.

Senator Elkins yesterday introduced a bill authorizing the construction of a steel or concrete bridge across the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River, at Massachusetts avenue extended. The measure carries an appropriation of \$3,500 for a survey of the work.

YESTERDAY IN CONGRESS.

SENATE.
The Senate convened at noon.
Bill introduced to reduce price of gas to 50 cents in District.
Lincoln anniversary to-day declared a local holiday.
Senator Hemenway in report calls President's Secret Service message unwarranted.
Bill making Knox eligible for Secretaryship passed.
Senator McLaughlin speaks on Brownsville.
La Follette holds up consideration on naval appropriation.
The Senate adjourned at 4:35 until Monday.

HOUSE.
The House convened at noon.
Agricultural bill discussed.
Bill introduced to buy picture of Pocahontas.
Consideration of India bill begun.
The House adjourned at 5:30 o'clock.

MAY BUY PAINTING.

Appropriation of \$20,000 Asked for Pocahontas Picture.
A joint resolution was introduced in the House yesterday by Representative Law authorizing the purchase of a painting of Pocahontas saving the life of Capt. John Smith.

The painting is by Victor Neblitz, and if purchased will be hung in the Capitol or New Library Building.
An appropriation of \$20,000 is authorized for the purchase.

BILLS ARE PUZZLING
Congress May Fail to Pass Important Measures.

PRESIDENT'S ACTION BLAMED
Veto of Census Bill and Determination to Increase Appropriation for Extension of Secret Service May Cause House to Defer Action Until Expiration of His Term.

As the Roosevelt administration draws to a close Congress finds itself confronted with a number of legislative problems that in all probability can not be solved at this time.

The President is insistent, for example, that the limitation placed upon the activities of the Secret Service shall be amended to conform to recommendations he made in two special messages to the National Legislature.

He has vetoed the census bill, which contained a provision authorizing the appointment of census employees on the recommendation of members of Congress instead of through certification by the Civil Service Commission.

The President's attitude toward these two questions, as well as other pending measures, may result in the failure of a number of important bills in the present Congress.

May Fail to Pass. It is practically admitted by leaders of the House that the sundry civil bill, which comes, among other things, under appropriations for the maintenance of the Secret Service, possibly one or two other supply bills, and the census bill will fall of passage at this session. This means that they must be taken up and put into the form of law at the special session to be called in March.

When tariff bills have been considered at special sessions in the past it was under a plan that prevented consideration of other measures, except in case of emergency.

Accordingly, the House which originates tariff legislation, proceeded to transact its business with only the committees that were absolutely necessary to make the wheel go round.

The determination to defer action on the tariff one appropriation bill and to lay over the census bill has been reached by the House leaders that Senators intend that that relating to the tariff will be debated, and probably passed at the coming special session.

Sundry Civil Bill. The sundry civil bill has been made the subject of hearings before the House Committee on Appropriations for many weeks. This is the biggest supply bill of them all. The Secret Service provision in that measure is not the only one that gives the House leaders cause for concern. The sundry civil bill is the vehicle for appropriations to carry on the canal work at Panama.

A debate in the Senate a day or so ago demonstrated that there are many members in that body who believe that the government blundered when it decided to build a lock type of canal across the Isthmus of Panama.

The House leaders have been reassured by the House leaders that Senators intend that that relating to the tariff will be debated, and probably passed at the coming special session.

No Harm Resulted. "That no harm has resulted from this restriction is shown by the fact that during the fiscal year 1908, there was not a single Secret Service man used by the Interior Department, and that statement of Secretary Garfield that he had no desire to use any one from the Secret Service in connection with the land fraud investigations."

"By the further fact that a proper Secret Service Bureau has been organized in the Department of Justice, which has complete power to investigate every crime against the government, with the possible exception of counterfeiting, which is provided for by this specific appropriation, out of which the Secret Service of the Treasury Department is paid."

This that follows is the only personal note in the report directed toward the President, the committee having determined to studiously adhere to a statement of fact and let the facts speak for themselves.

"If the amendment to the sundry civil bill for the current year 1909 has operated as a restriction upon the use of the employees of the Secret Service Division of the Treasury Department, such restriction is so technical and limited in character that it does not appear sufficient to warrant the impugning of the motives of Congress in adopting the amendment."

"No Congress in the history of the government has so liberally supported the executive branch of the government by appropriations to aid in the execution of law as has the Sixtieth Congress. The scope of the work of the Secret Service Division of the Treasury Department might be enlarged so as to enable them to investigate violations of law under the jurisdiction of that department, but to give them authority to conduct all governmental investigations would, in the opinion of your committee, be very unwise and result in much conflict and friction between the various departments."

Offensive Passage Ignored. The report virtually ignores that part of the message of the President which said that "the chief argument in favor of the provision was that the Congressmen did not themselves wish to be investigated by Secret Service men."

On the broad ground that if the facts submitted in the report show that there was no cause of complaint that justice had been hampered, or the resources of the government weakened in detecting crime, it would follow that the strictures placed on Congress by the President were unwarranted, the committee decided to refrain from added comment.

It was rumored in Congressional circles last evening that President Roosevelt will veto the sundry civil appropriation bill if it contains the provision limiting the work of the Secret Service to detecting counterfeiting and guarding the person of the President. Such action by the President would necessitate the re-passage of the bill in the special session of the next Congress, which will be begun in March. The bill would then go to President Taft for his approval.

ASKS FOR \$3,000.
Secretary of Interior Wants Money for Department Proceedings.

The Secretary of the Interior yesterday requested of Congress an appropriation of \$3,000 to defray expenses in taking testimony of disbarment proceedings.

In his letter, Secretary Garfield said the law prohibited testimony in the form of depositions, and that he had no friend for paying witnesses for their appearance.

HEMENWAY REPORT CHIDES PRESIDENT

Committee Calls Secret Service Attack Unwarranted.

THE SPY SYSTEM IS DETESTED

Result of Inquiry Into Charges Made by Chief Executive Shows Senators that So-called Limitations Did Not Restrict Wilkie's Men—Statements of Garfield Against Roosevelt.

By a series of rapid-fire questions, Senators Foraker and Tillman yesterday helped make Senator Hemenway's report on the Secret Service a thinly veiled rebuke to the President.

In itself, the findings of the Senate special committee showed that no limitation had been placed upon Chief Wilkie's bureau, and the Indiana Senator minced no words in saying that Mr. Roosevelt had impugned Congress without warrant.

Quoting figures of appropriations made for this branch of the government in the past, and citing extracts of testimony given by Secretary Garfield, Attorney General Bonaparte, and others, the chairman of the committee endeavored to show that the President's famous Secret Service statement was "absolutely erroneous and false."

Report Far-reaching. Voluminous and far-reaching, the report covers in detail the history of the "black cabinet," as the Secret Service Bureau has been recently called, and outlines the sudden increase of the force employed by the Treasury Department to detect crime.

When Senator Hemenway asserted that it was the opinion of the committee that the investigation should confine Senators on both sides of the chamber indicated their assent.

That part of the document which stated that Secretary Garfield encountered difficulty because of the multiplicity of Secret Service inspectors, who were engaged in prosecuting land frauds, Mr. Tillman inquired:

"Who controlled these agents, if the Secretary of the Interior and the Attorney General knew nothing of their actions?"

Mr. Hemenway replied that he could not answer that at the present time. This state of affairs seemed remarkable to the Senate.

Senator Foraker then demanded to know how many agents were now in the Secret Service. The Indiana Senator placed their number at 3,000, not including pure food and meat inspectors.

Reading further, Mr. Hemenway quoted a statement made by Secretary Garfield to the effect that the laxity of certain registers and receivers in his department might have been responsible for the failure to run down certain criminals.

Carter Objects. Senator Carter, of Montana, objected to that remark, saying he considered this class of men among the best officials in the government service.

"Tell me whether you think Secretary Garfield is right or wrong?" shouted Mr. Tillman.

"Mr. Garfield's statement is not borne out by the facts in the case," replied Mr. Carter.

This colloquy brought out the inquiry as to how these negligent men had been appointed. Senator Smoot answered by saying they were appointed by the President with the consent and approval of the Senate.

"Then he must make an exception in the South," said Tillman.

Following this interruption Mr. Hemenway concluded the reading of his report, which follows in part:

"It should be made clear to the Senate and to the public that this limitation, spoken of by the President, in no way affects any portion of the inspection or service of the government, except the departments of the government except the sixty-five men employed in the Secret Service Division of the Treasury Department."

No Harm Resulted. "That no harm has resulted from this restriction is shown by the fact that during the fiscal year 1908, there was not a single Secret Service man used by the Interior Department, and that statement of Secretary Garfield that he had no desire to use any one from the Secret Service in connection with the land fraud investigations."

"By the further fact that a proper Secret Service Bureau has been organized in the Department of Justice, which has complete power to investigate every crime against the government, with the possible exception of counterfeiting, which is provided for by this specific appropriation, out of which the Secret Service of the Treasury Department is paid."

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